

## **Basin Study Program Semi-Annual Basin Study Status Report**

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**Name of Study: Upper Deschutes River Basin Study**

**Study Manager: Mike Relf**

**Date: February 8, 2016**

### **1) What is the general status of the study?**

The Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) is the non-Federal cost-share partner for the Upper Deschutes Basin Study (Study) and is acting on behalf of, and as the fiscal agent for, the Basin Study Work Group (BSWG). Reclamation and BSWG completed the Plan of Study (POS) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in May 5, 2015. Since that time, BSWG finalized contracting processes to assemble the non-Federal study team. Reclamation and BSWG study team members are underway on study tasks in accordance with a Project Management Plan (PMP). The study is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2018.

### **2) What stakeholder participation has taken place since last status report?**

For the period from June through December 2015, BSWG has held five monthly Steering Committee meetings, each of which involved representatives participating on behalf of a wide range of interests including fisheries and environmental groups, irrigated agriculture, municipalities, recreation, government agencies, and others. Steering Committee meetings are open to the public and include a standing agenda item to receive public input or comments. In addition, BSWG representatives have made presentations about the Basin Study for a variety of interested organizations and agencies. Reclamation and BSWG continue to implement further stakeholder involvement efforts in accordance with the POS, including Technical Working Group meetings on task-specific topics.

### **3) What tasks listed in the Plan of Study have been completed since last status report?**

Specific tasks completed during the July-December 2015 time frame are summarized below:

- BSWG held Steering Committee meetings on July 7, August 4, October 6, November 3, and November 30, 2015; Communications Subcommittee and Technical Working Group meetings were also held to address task-specific issues.
- Reclamation and the BSWG Steering Committee established a Communications Subgroup to guide implementation of the Communications and Outreach Plan. This group meets monthly to develop communications materials and plan outreach activities.
- The Basin Study website (<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/studies/deschutes/index.html>) has been maintained and updated with notes, documents, and links. Communications materials are nearing completion to be used in Study outreach efforts, including a brochure, PowerPoint presentation, and related graphics.

- Climate projections have been selected for assessments of climate change in groundwater, hydrologic, and water resource modeling. Work on hydrologic and groundwater modeling has been initiated, including collaboration with the USGS on development and calibration of the GSFlow model to be used in Study analyses.
- Technical Working Groups have been established to guide work on the following tasks: Climate Change/Hydrologic Modeling; Upper Deschutes Ecological Assessment; Water Conservation; Water Rights, Legal, Policy, & Economics; and Streamflow/Temperature (three basins).
- Work is underway on engineering assessments of water conservation opportunities.
- Data collection has been completed and work is underway on ecological assessments of streamflow/habitat for the Upper Deschutes basin.
- Preliminary evaluations of potential streamflow/temperature relationships have been completed for the Middle Deschutes, Crooked River, and Whychus Creek areas.
- Work is underway on evaluating economic, social, and legal aspects affecting water management opportunities.
- Work has been initiated on defining a framework for development and evaluation of water management scenarios.
- Reclamation sent a July 15, 2015 letter to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs regarding the Study. A meeting was subsequently held on January 15, 2016.
- A scope and process has been developed for assessment of potential structural storage opportunities in the Upper Deschutes, Crooked, and Whychus basins. Reclamation's Technical Services Center has been engaged for planning-level assessment of one storage opportunity in the Upper Deschutes this summer.
- Reclamation's Study Manager provided the Reclamation study team with status updates and coordinated with team members on task assignments.
- Reclamation's Study Manager and the non-Federal Study Leads collaborated to develop and implement the Study PMP, including sections addressing risk management and change management processes.

**4) What are the planned tasks listed in the Plan of Study for the next reporting period?**

During the next reporting period of January through June 2016, work is scheduled for many of the technical Study tasks, as indicated in Figure 1 below. In addition, progress will be maintained on:

- Continued collaboration on PMP implementation, including cost tracking/reporting, scope control, risk management, and scheduling.
- Continued collaboration on implementation of the Communication and Outreach Plan.

**5) Is the study on schedule to be completed within two years of the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement? Have all of the tasks listed in the Plan of Study that were scheduled to be initiated by this point in time been initiated? Have all of the tasks listed**

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Work has been initiated in accordance with the schedule identified in the POS and is currently on track for tasks scheduled for the next reporting period. The overall study schedule anticipates completion of the Basin Study within three years following the May 2015 effective date of the MOA, per guidance in the current Directive and Standard.

**6) Are there any issues, concerns, or problems regarding this study?**

In December 2015, lawsuits were filed by WaterWatch of Oregon and the Center for Biological Diversity seeking actions by Reclamation and relevant irrigation districts to protect the Oregon spotted frog, a threatened species per the Endangered Species Act. The Basin Study Work Group Steering Committee, which includes WaterWatch as a member, has discussed the litigation relative to potential effects on open communication and collaborative work. The group is currently proceeding effectively with Study tasks but will continue to track litigation developments that may affect future directions.

**Financial Status Report**

BSWG/DBBC has provided the following information documenting all components of the non-Federal cost-share during the period from July through December 2015, including non-Federal cash disbursements or outlays specifically identifiable to the basin study and payments to sub-recipients and contractors:

<b>Costs paid to:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Central Oregon Irrigation District	\$1,496.00
Law Office of Eileen Eakins	\$1,360.00
Special Districts Association of Oregon	\$125.00
Watershed Professionals Network	\$55,231.73
River Design Group	\$31,929.43
Anderson Perry	\$15,195.95
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	\$2,880.00
Ecosystems Economics	\$4,385.00
GSI Water Solutions, Inc.	\$5,669.00
Deschutes River Conservancy	\$3,520.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$121,792.11</b>

With consideration of non-Federal costs as reported in the prior status report (\$68,909.99), overall non-Federal costs for the Study through December 2015 total \$190,702.10.

Reclamation began incurring expenses against its \$750,000 cost-share budget following execution of the MOA on May 5, 2015. Reclamation expenditures through December 2015 are summarized below.

<b>Task (per Fund Status Report)</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Total Spent</b>	<b>% Spent</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Project Management/Meetings	\$110,000	\$27,682	25%	22%
Reporting/Communications	\$45,000	\$320	<1%	<1%
Climate Change/Hydrologic Modeling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Projections (\$20K)</li> <li>• Hydrology/Groundwater Modeling (\$55K)</li> <li>• Update &amp; Develop Water Resource Model (\$55K)</li> <li>• Model Scenarios (\$70K)</li> <li>• Addl. USGS Assistance (\$20K)</li> </ul>	\$220,000	\$22,431	10%	15%
Storage Evaluations	\$70,000	--		
Water Quality	\$40,000	--		
Task Evaluations/Input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Input/Review (\$65K)</li> <li>• Reservoir Optimization (\$25K)</li> <li>• Develop Scenarios (\$100K)</li> <li>• Technical Sufficiency Review (\$25K)</li> </ul>	\$215,000	\$536	<1%	<1%
Scope Reserve	\$50,000	--		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$50,969</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>

Figure 1: Projected Task Schedule, Upper Deschutes River Basin Study

